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UNIDO POLICIES

Preparatory arrangements for the Conference on Ecologically Sustainable Industrial Development

Note by the Secretariat

I. PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS

1. At its sixth session, the Industrial Development Board, in its decision IDB.6/Dec.7, approved the UNIDO environment programme as contained in document IDB.6/3. In that decision, the Director-General was requested, inter alia, to ensure that a broad dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat determines the guidelines for UNIDO participation and contributions to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be hosted by the Government of Brazil, in 1992.

2. In response to that request and to UNIDO's mandate as the focal point within the United Nations system for the industrialization of developing countries, UNIDO will hold the Conference on Ecologically Sustainable Industrial Development at Copenhagen, Denmark, from 14 to 18 October 1991. The conference, to a large extent financed by a special-purpose contribution by Denmark to the Industrial Development Fund, will aim to elaborate issues pertaining to the role of industry in environmental degradation and remediation. The recommendations taken by the UNIDO conference are expected to make a significant contribution to the discussion on industry at the 1992 United Nations conference and will form an input to the policy statements that are expected to emanate from the United Nations conference (Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter).

3. The Secretariat is preparing, with the aid of consultants, ten background documents, which are scheduled for distribution in July. Five of the documents deal with environment issues on a broad basis, i.e. defining ecologically sustainable industrial development and identifying barriers to its achievement, reviewing government and industry initiatives and areas of international cooperation. The other five documents are meant to serve as case studies, seen through the perspective of the above issues, of subsectors in which UNIDO has technical cooperation activities (production of alumina, pulp and paper, fertilizers, petrochemicals and leather).

4. As part of the consensus-building process for the UNIDO conference, a preparatory meeting, to which senior officials from Member States and international organizations will be invited, will be held in Vienna from 23 to 25 July 1991. UNIDO has prepared an issue paper covering the major themes to be taken up by the participants of the UNIDO conference in an effort to identify the policy conclusions that UNIDO will forward to the 1992 conference. The fourth session of the General Conference will be subsequently informed on the conclusions agreed upon at the conference in Copenhagen. Those same recommendations will also be presented to the fourth preparatory committee meeting for the 1992 conference, to be held in February/March of that year.

II. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

5. The Board may wish to take note of the present report.

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